

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly Newscast

### January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Lessons prepared by Barbara Edmondson, Kim Chaba-Armstrong & Justine Light

#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<b>fatal</b> (deadly)	<b>case</b> (situation)	<b>isolated</b> (alone, not with others)
<b>outbreak</b> (mass occurrence)	<b>confirmed</b> (make certain)	<b>run out</b> (no longer available)
<b>vaccine</b> (medicine to help prevent one from getting a disease)	<b>virus</b> (a disease that spreads to others)	

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**H1N1** – a kind of flu

1. My mother lives far from the city and in the winter when the roads are too icy to drive on, I worry she feels \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Stores \_\_\_\_\_ of shovels after the first snow fall.
3. It is important for all children to get a \_\_\_\_\_ that prevents the measles.
4. The flu \_\_\_\_\_ spreads around the city every winter.
5. When there is an \_\_\_\_\_ of any sickness, people often stay home to avoid coming into contact with it.
6. There is a lot of research to find a cure for cancer, because it is still a \_\_\_\_\_ disease.
7. Before I signed the contract, I \_\_\_\_\_ my name was spelled correctly.
8. A doctor looks at each \_\_\_\_\_ carefully before deciding what to do.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The first fatal case of H-5-N-1 bird flu in North America _____.	a) was an Alberta woman. b) was an American woman.
2. The woman died two days after returning home from _____.	a) North America b) China
3. Public health officials say _____.	a) it was an isolated case. b) she lived an isolated life.
4. The H-1-N-1 virus has been spreading across _____.	a) Alberta. b) North America.
5. There have now been more than _____ confirmed cases.	a) 400 b) 1400
6. Now, about _____ have been vaccinated against the flu.	a) one million b) one thousand

### Discussion Questions

Did you get the flu shot? Do you think it is important to get the flu shot? Why or why not?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. havoc	a) to not happen on time
	2. power outage	b) very
	3. extremely	c) Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba
	4. shiver	d) not going to happen
	5. cancellation	e) saved information of past events or knowledge
	6. delay	f) much destruction
	7. decade	g) going from one side to the other
	8. records	h) 10 years
	9. stretching	i) no electricity
	10. the prairies	j) to shake with coldness

**Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:**

**wind chill** – what the temperature feels like when there is wind

**“polar-vortex”** – cold, low pressure air

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ There were a few power outages in Newfoundland because of the winter weather.
2. \_\_\_\_ Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba experienced very cold weather.
3. \_\_\_\_ Some people experienced weather that felt like -50 C.
4. \_\_\_\_ There were many flight cancellations and delays at Canada’s largest airport.
5. \_\_\_\_ The weather in America was so cold many records were broken.
6. \_\_\_\_ There were wind chill warnings from Alberta to Montreal.

### Discussion Questions

What do you do to keep warm in Alberta’s winter weather? What advice would you give someone new to Alberta to help them in this winter weather?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

#### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1. disabled	a. overturn push out
	2. dump out	b. handicapped paralyzed
	3. withdrawn	c. overturn upset
	4. tip over	d. taken out pull out
	5. dishearten	e. focused on picked on
	6. vulnerable	f. disappoint discourage
	7. targeted	g. weak unprotected

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

#### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How old is Chris Hardman?
2. What day was he robbed?
3. What had he just finished doing when he was robbed?
4. How much money was stolen from him?
5. How does Hardman feel about the robbery?
6. What time of day did the robbery happen?
7. How common is this kind of robbery?

#### Discussion Questions

How can we ensure that disabled people feel safe in society? How can we ensure our children understand the ways to respect all people in society?

## Language Focus

### Word Forms

When studying new vocabulary, it is helpful to study the word forms that make a word family. Word families are all the different words that share the same root word. We use suffixes (endings) and prefixes (beginning letters) to change a word's meaning or part of speech.

Let's look at one of the words from the second story: "Winter **created** havoc in much of Canada in the past week."

The root word **create** is a verb. The word **creation** is a noun, made by adding the suffix (ending) *-tion* to the root word, the verb. If we add the suffix *-or*, we can make another noun, **creator**. By adding *-ness* we can make the noun **creativity**. By adding the suffix *-ive* we can make the adjective, **creative**. When we add an *-ly* to the adjective we make the adverb **creatively**. By adding the suffix *-ity* to the adjective we get the noun **creativity**. We also can expand our vocabulary by adding prefixes to the word. For the root word creative we can see these words made by adding prefixes: **recreate**, **uncreative**, and **noncreative**.

Using the root word create we can easily learn 9 new words! This is how we can expand our vocabulary efficiently.

Here are the most common prefixes and suffixes we can use to expand our vocabulary:

Suffixes to make a noun: **-acy, -ance/-ence, -er/-or, -ism, -ist, -ity, -ment, -ness, -sion, -tion**

Suffixes to make a verb: **-ate, -en, -ify, -ize**

Suffixes to make an adjective: **-able/-ible, -al/-ful, -ic/-ical, -ious, -ish, -ive, -less, -y**

Suffixes to make an adverb: **-ly**

Prefix to mean again: **re-**

Prefixes to mean against or opposite: **anti-, de-, dis-**

Prefixes that mean not: **in-, im-, il-, ir-, non-, un-**

**What are the word forms for the following words heard in the stories this week?**

- |                      |                |                   |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. fatal (adjective) | _____ (adverb) | _____ (noun)      |
| 2. isolate (verb)    | _____ (noun)   | _____ (adjective) |
| 3. confirm (verb)    | _____ (noun)   | _____ (adjective) |
| 4. vaccine (noun)    | _____ (verb)   | _____ (noun)      |

How do you know which suffixes and prefixes can go on a word? You need to use a dictionary and then remember the new word form as part of the word family.

## Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	JANUARY 10 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English on CBC for for the week of January 10 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	An Alberta woman who travelled to China last month is the first fatal case of H-5-N-1 bird flu in North America. She died in hospital two days after returning to Alberta. It's not clear how the person caught the virus. Public health officials say this is an isolated case. As for the H1N1 outbreak that has been spreading across the province, Alberta Health Services says the number of confirmed cases is now more than fourteen hundred. The good news is more people are now vaccinated against the flu than ever before - about one million. The bad news? The supply of vaccines could soon run out.	0:11
Story 2	Winter created havoc in much of Canada in the past week. There have been mass power outages in Newfoundland and a wide area of the prairies experienced extremely cold, dense air. In many parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, there were extreme wind chill warnings, and residents shivered through temperatures in the -40s - feeling closer to -50 degrees Celsius in the wind. In Toronto, extreme cold caused many flight cancellations and delays at the country's busiest airport, Pearson International. The U.S. was also very cold as a "polar vortex" hit parts of the country with a dangerous cold, breaking decades-old records with wind chill warnings stretching from Montana to Alabama.	1:22
Story 3	Calgary Police are investigating after a disabled man was dumped out of his wheelchair and robbed; 46-year-old Clint Hardman had just withdrawn money from the bank Monday afternoon to pay his rent. While on his way to the bus stop, he says his wheelchair was tipped over and two teenage suspects stole 14-hundred dollars he had in an envelope. He wasn't physically hurt. Friends are helping to raise money to help him pay this month's rent. Hardman says he's disheartened that people can be so cruel. Police are calling it a crime of opportunity. They say it is unusual for a robbery to happen on a busy street in broad daylight... and even more unusual for a vulnerable person like a man in a wheelchair to be targeted like this.	2:44

## Appendix - Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. My mother lives far from the city and in the winter when the roads are too icy to drive on, I worry she feels isolated.
2. Stores ran out of shovels after the first snow fall.
3. It is important for all children to get a vaccination that prevents the measles.
4. The flu virus spreads around the city every winter.
5. When there is outbreak of any sickness, people often stay home to avoid coming into contact with it.
6. There is a lot of research to find a cure for cancer, because it is still a fatal disease.
7. Before I signed the contract, I confirmed my name was spelled correctly.
8. A doctor looks at each case carefully before deciding what to do.

#### Listening

1. The first fatal case of H-5-N-1 bird flu in North America _____.	a) was an Alberta woman. b) was an American woman.
2. The woman died two days after returning home from _____.	a) North America b) China
3. Public health officials say _____.	a) it was an isolated case. b) she lived an isolated life.
4. The H-1-N-1 virus has been spreading across _____.	a) Alberta. b) North America.
5. There have now been more than _____ confirmed cases.	a) 400 b) 1400
6. Now, about _____ have been vaccinated against the flu.	a) one million b) one thousand

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
f	1. havoc	a) to not happen on time
i	2. power outage	b) very
b	3. extremely	c) Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba
j	4. shiver	d) not going to happen
d	5. cancellation	e) saved information of past events or knowledge
a	6. delay	f) much destruction

<b>h</b>	7. decade	g) going from one side to the other
<b>e</b>	8. records	h) 10 years
<b>g</b>	9. stretching	i) no electricity
<b>c</b>	10. the prairies	j) to shake with coldness

### Listening

1. F There were a few power outages in Newfoundland because of the winter weather.
2. T Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba experienced very cold weather.
3. T Some people experienced weather that felt like -50 C.
4. T There were many flight cancellations and delays at Canada's largest airport.
5. T The weather in America was so cold many records were broken.
6. F There were wind chill warnings from Alberta to Montreal.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
b	1. disabled	a. overturn push out
d	2. dump out	b. handicapped paralyzed
d	3. withdrawn	c. overturn upset
a	4. tip over	d. taken out pull out
f	5. dishearten	e. focused on picked on
g	6. vulnerable	f. disappoint discourage
e	7. targeted	g. weak unprotected

### Listening

1. How old is Chris Hardman?  
46 years old
2. What day was he robbed?



Monday

3. What had he just finished doing when he was robbed?

He had just withdrawn money from the bank.

4. How much money was stolen from him?

\$1400

5. How does Hardman feel about the robbery?

He is disheartened.

6. What time of day did the robbery happen?

In the afternoon.

7. How common is this kind of robbery?

Police say it is rare/ uncommon.

### Language Focus

- |                      |                            |                              |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. fatal (adjective) | <b>fatally</b> (adverb)    | <b>fatality</b> (noun)       |
| 2. isolate (verb)    | <b>isolation</b> (noun)    | <b>isolated</b> (adjective)  |
| 3. confirm (verb)    | <b>confirmation</b> (noun) | <b>confirmed</b> (adjective) |
| 4. vaccine (noun)    | <b>vaccinate</b> (verb)    | <b>vaccination</b> (noun)    |